

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE MILFORD AND MATAMORAS RAILROAD SWINDLE—HOW THE STATE LOSES AN ANNUAL TAX OF \$10,000—THE SCHOEPPE WRIT OF ERROR BILL—THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR—THE RECORD—THE PHILADELPHIA CONTESTED SEATS—THE PROBABLE FATE OF THE PETITION IN THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 13, 1871. While there has been no really important business transacted in the Legislature during the week, there have been several matters introduced which promise to be the cause of interesting times upon the Hill. The most prominent of these is the presentation of an act repealing the supplement by which the Milford and Matamoras Railroad Company was released at the last session from paying an annual tax of \$10,000 into the State Treasury.

It will be remembered that this bill received the gubernatorial sanction, and its true character was not discovered until the usual demand was made by the State Treasurer for the payment of the tax. The Governor in his annual message called the attention of the Legislature to the fact, and, as above stated, a repealing act has been presented. This will invoke a fight in which every effort will be made to prevent its passage. The same roguery which was practised in 1870 will be repeated at this session. The author of the iniquitous measure is here at present, and engaged in the business of "setting-up" the Senate.

Should he succeed in that branch of the legislative department of the State Government, he will be compelled to go through the same ceremony in the House, as a similar act will be introduced there during the coming week. This kind of legislation is decidedly refreshing to a certain class of the members, who participated in the rooster rings which became so notorious at the session of 1870. Several of these fellows have succeeded in being re-elected, and already have begun to feel the pulse of the country delegations. Especially have they been active in testing the committees, but they have as yet met with but little encouragement in that quarter, the main object of Speaker Webb being to so constitute these important auxiliaries to legislation as to render it impossible for a ring to be formed to bear upon any measure.

But there is no telling how men may act in a month or so, especially after they have had a taste of the expensive nature of living at Harrisburg. An investigating committee might shed some light upon the manner in which this Milford and Matamoras bill became a law. It is said that it was offered and read in the House, and that then the obnoxious section which causes a loss to the State of nearly a million of dollars was not included in its provisions. It next went to the Senate, where it was not amended, and yet when the Governor gave it his signature the section was there, but couched in such language that its true intent was not comprehended until too late. Its passage in its present shape looks very singular, as there was a gentleman here watching the progress of the measure; and he states that after the Senate had acted upon it he examined it, and could find no such section as subsequently appeared in it.

SOME OF THE MEMBERS WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL PROVIDING THAT, IN CASES OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, A WRIT OF ERROR COULD BE TAKEN TO THE SUPREME COURT, ON WHICH THAT COURT COULD REVIEW THE EVIDENCE AS WELL AS THE LAW, ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE IT EXPUNGED FROM THE STATUTE BOOKS. It was intended to apply to the case of Dr. Schoeppe, now confined at Carlisle for the murder of Miss Stennecke, but its provisions have caused so much delay in subsequent cases that Mr. Josephs today introduced a repealing act. It went to the regular committee, and will receive action at an early day.

THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR. There is some talk of the introduction of another repealing act. This will apply to the bill, also passed at the last session, creating the position of collector of delinquent taxes in Philadelphia. This measure created great excitement among the then members, who felt satisfied that it had received the sanction of the House in some way other than the usual form. An investigating committee failed to elicit any irregularities in the proceeding; but there were decidedly material witnesses who were never called before that committee, mainly from the fact that they were not thought of at the time. Allude to the phonographers who were present and recorded every bill as the Speaker's table was cleared. I believe that if their notes had been produced, the suspicion in the minds of not only of the members, but also of the community, that foul play had been practised, would have been strengthened.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE ABOVE REPEALING ACT shows the great caution which should be exercised by members, and it also suggests the necessity of a

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS being published daily by each branch of the Legislature. This subject has received the consideration of the joint committee appointed for the purpose. They have directed that proposals be received for a record similar to that of 1858, when a sketch of the debates was also published. That the contractor who would attempt to abstract the speeches of the present time would rest on a bed of thorns is too palpable to need any further comment. But a great necessity does exist for the issuing of this document. That it will prevent outrageous legislation no one will pretend to deny, and the State can well afford to expend several thousands of dollars for its reproduction. The absence of such a publication last winter was the great temptation which induced members to vote for corrupt measures, as their constituents would never know how they voted on bills of interest to their localities.

THE CONTESTED SEATS. The most absorbing event of interest to Philadelphians during the week has been the disposition of the cases which involve the seats of Senator Dechert and Representatives Lamon and Hagar. The usual petitions were forwarded to Harrisburg, and were accepted by both houses—the difference being that the Senate refused to do what the House had done in naming an hour for the drawing of the committee who are to decide the merits of the cases. The Senate had not acted in the matter until the House had made the disposition which is always customary in such cases. The Republicans of the House then discovered an informality in the certificates appended to the petitions, and after a long and really able argument by the legal fraternity, both cases have been reconsidered, and the contestants have gone to Philadelphia to have the defects remedied. While the Senate could find no similar irregularity in the certificate of Mr. Lydell, the Democracy conceived the idea that

there might be a sufficient vagueness in the specifications of the petition itself as to warrant them in quashing the entire document. They have accordingly sent it to a committee of seven, composed of five Democrats and two Republicans. The minority of the Senate, considering that they are so nearly equal in numbers to the majority, were certainly entitled to a larger representation in the committee. But there is a rumor which, if true, will give an insight into the reason that induced Speaker Wallace to so construct this committee. It is said that Senator Backus, who offered the resolution referring the petition, has pledged himself to vote for the drawing of the committee. If this be so, it is hardly possible that he would favor the quashing of the petition. In order to avert such a catastrophe to the Democracy, they are so represented that, if the chairman votes with the Republicans on the committee, there still will be a majority in favor of at least preventing the production of such testimony as will exclude Colonel Dechert from his seat. The committee is directed to report on Monday before noon, and in order to allow them to submit their decision the Senate will meet at 11 o'clock A. M. It is thought there will be no further trouble about the cases in the House, if the contestants will on Monday evening produce the legal certificate from the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE COAL TRADE. The suspension in all the anthracite coal regions is now in full force, most of the prominent works having stopped on Tuesday last, according to agreement. In Schuylkill there are about five collieries working, which, with the stock on hand, will be sufficient to supply the demand without an advance in prices. In New York the supply is said to be very low, in which case no very long suspension is to be expected in the Wyoming region, for just as soon as the companies can sell coal at a higher rate they will compromise with the men, who are too much in the interest of the companies to hold out on a question of basis. It is almost certain that, whatever other corporations may do, the New York companies will never give in to a basis system, and thus tie their hands for all favorite speculating purposes.

In Schuylkill the strike is said to be one more of necessity than of choice, there being but few orders on hand. The following is the complete summary of the trade for the past week, as reported for the Pottsville Miners' Journal of today:—

Table with columns for 1870 and 1871, showing coal trade statistics.

It will be seen that the increase this year so far is 98,506 tons. The suspension gave an impetus to the trade for the last three weeks. At present there is no demand for coal in the whole market before the suspension, they expect to purchase lower, or will use bituminous coal where they can do so.

Some fool, or perhaps teag, who wanted to test the credulity of the papers abroad, sent the following despatch to the American Press Association, dated Pottsville:—"There are in the employ of the big companies 37,000 men in the Wyoming Valley, 15,000 in the Lehigh Valley, and 45,000 in the Schuylkill Valley, who by the strike are deprived of the means of subsistence."

There are only about 12,000 men and boys employed in mining by the three Big Companies in Wyoming Basin. In Schuylkill county the whole number of men and boys engaged in mining do not exceed 30,000. The whole number of persons engaged in mining in all the anthracite regions does not exceed, if it reaches 50,000 men and boys. If he intended to include those who are dependent on those men employed at the mines, then his figures are still more erroneous. The following statement of the trade has been furnished us by one of the prominent coal firms of this city:—

Table showing coal trade statistics for the week ending Jan. 10, 1871.

BLOCKLEY.

The Mighty Disturbance that Occurred in it—The Discoveries Made by Guardian Parker, and What they Were Worth—A Visit to the Institution.

A certain old man has observed that a little fire kindle a great flame, the truth whereof cannot, we believe, be successfully denied at this late day; and by adapting the figure to our present use, we think it very nowhere more powerfully shown than in the present hubbub concerning the Almshouse and the disastrous proceedings alleged to transpire within it—a hubbub which rapidly grew from a very insignificant event under the fostering care of one of the twelve Guardians who are the sole managers of the great institution.

Up to within about six months ago peace and good will may be said to have reigned among all the officers of it; and, with the exception of that which naturally attaches to a place where the impotent and debilitated are cared for, and where all the terrors of a wasted and profligate life are discovered, the Almshouse had no notoriety. But in a moment when least expected, and therefore at the fittest time to create sensation, which by many was caught up and industriously fostered, a Greek appeared upon the horizon of Blockley and quickly overshadowed it. Friend Parker, whom the reading public have become quite familiar with as the discoverer of all the evils of the Almshouse, discovered, he confidently believed to be, and where all the terrors of a wasted and profligate life are discovered, the Almshouse had no notoriety. But in a moment when least expected, and therefore at the fittest time to create sensation, which by many was caught up and industriously fostered, a Greek appeared upon the horizon of Blockley and quickly overshadowed it.

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PRESIDENT GRANT.

To Philadelphia as a Flying Visit. This afternoon the President will be in our city, and for two days will be somewhat relieved from the heavy care that besets all officials in proportion as their positions are important. He will be the guest of the Secretary of the Navy, Hon. Adolph E. Borie. Various reasons are assigned for this visit, the main one being that his Excellency comes to his Pennsylvania friends for advice as to the expediency of a reconstruction of the Cabinet. The reason usually assigned for all the visits the President makes, and is founded alone on mere speculation. That he will get a couple of nights of undisturbed repose is to be hoped.

HEIMBOLD'S NEW DRUG PALACE ON CHESSNUT STREET.—There is no end to the industry and perseverance of Dr. Heimbold, and in eminent success where the mass of mankind would fail from want of energy, he succeeds. It is to these impulses that he owes his great fortune, and the incalculable benefits he is enabled through it to bestow on the community. Tonight in New York he opened, No. 594 Broadway, another of his magnificent palaces, which are wonders of beauty and completeness; and when this is fairly started, its private proprietor comes to Philadelphia to supervise the creation of still another on the main floor of the popular continent. The solitary and the gloomy of this imposing edifice will be removed, and what is now the reading-room will in future be transformed into an attractive drug store. In making this beautiful, Dr. Heimbold will stop at no expense, and the business which his enterprise will infuse into the drug business will open the eyes of many of our older merchants. There will be, among all the innovations which the proprietor will introduce, one worthy of particular mention, and which our readers should specially heed. The store will be kept open all night, and there will be in attendance a special corps of clerks of standard ability for nocturnal duty, who will be able to compound prescriptions in French, Spanish, German, and other languages. The very parties who were engaged by Dr. Heimbold in fitting up the pharmacy at Tenth and Chesnut streets, just fourteen years since—among whom we find the names of John Stewart, H. Phillips, Miskey, Merrill & Co., J. Ballenger, D. Beran, Brown & McFarlane—will be engaged by him in altering and adapting the Continental reading-room into a drug palace, of which, when completed, Dr. A. L. Heimbold will have charge.

STORE ROBBERY.—About 12 o'clock on Friday night a pane of glass in the bulk window of the dry goods store of William Burnside, S. W. corner of Thirteenth and Shippen streets, was broken and goods to the value of about \$100 removed. Mr. Burnside first gave the alarm, and a policeman who happened to be in the immediate neighborhood saw four men come from an alley near the place and run. The officer pursued, and before he could get to the way by which the goods were removed, the way by which the goods were subsequently recovered in the alley from which the thieves emerged. The prisoners gave the names of William Wittingham, Martin Curtin, James McCabe alias Thomas Smith, and James McCullough. Curtin's fingers were cut, showing that he had been concerned in the breaking of the glass. The accused were committed by Alderman Lutz for a further hearing.

AN INCENDIARY FIRE.—Early last evening an attempt was made to burn a frame shed in the rear of the premises No. 718 Alameda street. A fire had been kindled in a basket of shavings, but it was discovered in time to prevent the destruction of the premises. About half-past 6 o'clock this morning another attempt was made to destroy the property. This time the fire was kindled in a bag of paper in an outhouse adjoining the shed, and before discovered the flames had made considerable headway. The outhouse was partially consumed. Three men were seen to leave the premises shortly before the fire, and from a description furnished, Officers McCullough and McNulty arrested Thomas McCabe, John Curtin, and Joseph Webb, on suspicion of having committed the incendiary act. They were handed over to the care of the Fire Marshal, and will have a hearing at the Central Police Station this afternoon.

MORE GRATUITOUS MEDICAL ADVICE.—At No. 216 S. Eleventh street a dispensary for skin diseases has been opened, where all those afflicted with these maladies have great relief and advice. These diseases are very deplorable in their nature, and often those having them cannot escape being regarded with repugnance. The want of a place where free advice regarding them would be given has long been felt in Philadelphia, and the thanks of the public are due to the philanthropic gentlemen who established it. The dispensary will be under the charge of Dr. L. A. Dühring.

RETTALIATION.—About 6 o'clock last evening Lewis Garrigah, conductor of car No. 3 on the Richmond line, was forced to eject from his vehicle a disorderly passenger. This occurred at Beach and Poplar streets. On the up-trip the same individual got in the car at Beach and Coates streets. This time he was accompanied by a number of companions, who, without any provocation whatever, commenced an attack upon the conductor and driver, both of whom were severely beaten. After accomplishing their desire the assailants left, and escaped arrest.

AN IMPOSTOR.—For some days past an impostor called "Neely the Hound" has been creating serious annoyance to the citizens in the northeastern section of the city. He pretends his arm has been broken, having it bound up in splints. His practice is to walk for alms, and any one refusing to comply, the Hound curses them high and low. This morning Sergeant Gilchrist came across the fellow at Second and Noble streets, and promptly placed him under arrest.

SERIOUSLY BURNED.—About half-past 6 o'clock this morning Mrs. Donnelly, aged 38 years, residing at Maylandville, was badly burned by the explosion of a gas stove. The explosion of a can of coal oil. She was pouring the oil on some burning wood at the time of the occurrence. Her recovery is considered doubtful. Mr. Donnelly was also badly burned in attempting to rescue his wife. Both sufferers were removed to St. Joseph's Hospital.

ORPHANS' COURT AND MASTERS' PEREMPTORY SALES OF REAL ESTATE.—Messrs. Thomas & Sons, auctioneers and real estate agents, have, without reserve, several valuable estates by order of the Orphans' Court, masters, executors, trustees, heirs, and others, comprising residences, farms, stores, small dwellings, building lots, ground rents, valuable stocks, loans, etc. See the catalogue issued to-day and advertisements, handbills, etc.

CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, ETC.

CLOTH HOUSE OF W. T. Snodgrass & Co., N. W. CORNER OF NINTH and MARKET STS., HAVE A FRESH SUPPLY AT AN AWFUL SACRIFICE OF Astracans, Carracullas, Coatings, Suitings, Chinchillas and Cassimeres.

8-4 Green Cloths, FOR PARLOR BILLIARD TABLES. BOOTS AND SHOES.

SKATING SHOES. BARTLETT, No. 33 SOUTH SIXTH STREET, ABOVE CHESSNUT.

WANTED—AN ORGANIST AND A CHORISTER in a large Church in this city. Please address, with terms and references, C. E. W., this office, 110 N. 2d St.

FOR SALE—DESIRABLE WEST PHILADELPHIA HOUSE, No. 406 Chesnut street; a three-story brown-stone front; complete with modern conveniences; bay window, etc.; lot, 30 feet front by 30 feet deep. Apply to J. CLAYTON, No. 111 WALNUT STREET.

COUNTRY SEAT AND FARM FOR SALE OR LET, of 50 or 100 acres, above SEVEN MILE STORE, Bristol Pike, and near Tacony. Manston House and Dwellings to let. Apply on premises, or No. 610 LOCUST STREET.

TO LET—DESIRABLE STORE No. 216 Chesnut street, on favorable terms. Apply to ALFRED G. BAKER, No. 435 CHESSNUT STREET.

TO LET—WEST PHILADELPHIA.—THE desirable Dwelling No. 426 South FORTIETH STREET (Fountain Terrace). Apply at No. 215 WALNUT STREET, room 5, second-story front; or, No. 425 South BROAD STREET. 1141st

FINE STATIONERY AND Card Engraving. DREKA, No. 1033 CHESSNUT STREET, 913 Walnut St.

THE GREAT WEDDING CARD DEPOT. The Latest Novelties in Visiting Cards, Antique, Undine, Rose, Silver Grey; Wedding Cards, That cannot be equalled in style, and very low in price.

WM. H. HOSKINS, No. 913 ARCH STREET, WEDDING AND PARTY INVITATIONS ENGRAVED AND PRINTED IN THE LATEST STYLE.

A fine assortment of FRENCH, ENGLISH, and AMERICAN PAPER, with Envelopes to Match. PAPER and ENVELOPES, ready stamped, always on hand. JOHN LINERD, No. 921 SPRING GARDEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

WRIGHT'S NE PLUS ULTRA Minced Meat. Unequaled for Quality. CAUTION.—Beware of all imitations, as there but one WRIGHT in the market. DEPOT, SOUTH WEST CORNER SPRING GARDEN and FRANKLIN SOLD BY ALL GROCERS. 13 15 17th

WISHART'S COLUMN.

THE MEDICAL PROPERTIES OF TAR. The pine tree has long been known to possess valuable medical properties. For pulmonary diseases it is doubtful whether any remedy has as yet been discovered equal to it. It seems to change and renew the very structure on which it acts, and to infuse into the system an indescribable power equal to the natural power before disease had even taken hold of the body, so as to make, as it were, an entirely new tissue, and to give a newness of life and energy which one who has been sick a long time knows the value of but cannot fully describe.

The great objection, however, to all tar preparations has been their unpleasant taste, and consequent liability to sickness and nausea to the stomach. We have before us, however, a preparation of the kind referred to, which obviates all these objections, and is as agreeable to the palate as it is valuable in the cure of disease. We mean "Dr. Wishart's Pine Tree Tar Cordial," a real, genuine, bona fide medicinal cordial, distilled from the pine tree by a process known only to the Doctor himself, the sale and popularity of which are only equalled by the amount of suffering it has relieved, and the number of diseases it is so well calculated to effectually cure. In the Pine Tree Tar Cordial the invalid may be sure he has a remedy of very extraordinary power for throat and lung affections, and when taken in conjunction with the "Great American Dyspepsia Pills," an infallible cure for dyspepsia, liver complaint, sick headache, and the many ailments arising from a disordered state of the liver and digestive organs.

In our sphere as publishers we feel some degree of cautiousness in what we recommend to our readers, but when we know of anything of value to the public we shall not hesitate to make it known through our columns. We advise those of our readers who are suffering from dyspepsia, etc., to give Dr. Wishart's celebrated remedies a trial.

A medical expert, holding honorable collegiate diplomas, devotes his entire time to the examination of patients at the office parlors. Associated with him are three consulting physicians of acknowledged eminence, whose services are given to the public free of charge. This opportunity is offered by no other institution in the country.

Thousands of certificates of absolute cure (when all else failed to afford relief), as well as recommendatory letters without number, have been received by Dr. Wishart, the proprietor, attesting the uniform success with which they have been employed. Many of said letters are from the highest sources, including eminent statesmen, Governors, State judges, clergymen, etc.—men slow to be convinced, prejudiced perhaps at first, but feeling themselves under a sense of duty bound to tell the Doctor what they had done for them and to recommend them to others. The Great American Dyspepsia Pills and Pine Tree Tar Cordial are sold by all druggists throughout the world. They can also be obtained at Dr. WISHART'S GREAT FAMILY MEDICINE STORE, No. 232 North SECOND STREET, Philadelphia, where a successful practicing physician can be consulted each day, free of charge. Those in need of professional aid or counsel will do well to make a note of the above. Communications by mail, soliciting professional advice, will be considered strictly confidential and promptly answered, free of charge. The most complete stock of Family Medicines, Hair Preparations, Perfumery, etc., in the city. Give us a trial. Address all communications,

L. Q. C. WISHART, No. 232 NORTH SECOND STREET, 114 31 St. WASH. PHILADELPHIA.